

CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling a message program having a plurality of message stages with different message parameters in a message machine for providing a message according to said message program, said method comprising the steps of storing a change in message parameter performed in a desired message stage during an execution of said message program in a memory, and modifying the desired message stage according to the change in message parameter stored in said memory at the next execution of said message program.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said message machine is a chair-type message machine having a backrest portion, in which a message head for providing a message action is incorporated, and said message parameters comprises the kind of message action, range of message action, the number of message actions, message strength and message speed.
3. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein when a change in total time required for said message program occurs due to the change in message parameter in the desired message stage, a corresponding message parameter in another message stage other than the desired message stage is changed such that said message program is completed within a predetermined time period.
4. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said memory comprises a memory table for storing a required number of message stages having a same message parameter, and when the desired message stage is stored in said memory table as a result of the change in message parameter, another message stage stored at a predetermined position in said memory table is deleted from

said memory table, and the message parameter of said another message stage deleted from said memory table is changed such that said message program is completed within a predetermined time period.

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5. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said memory comprises a memory table for storing a required number of message stages having a same number of message actions, and when the desired message stage is stored in said memory table as a result of the change in the number of message actions,
10 another message stage stored at a predetermined position in said memory table is deleted from said memory table, and the number of message actions of said another message stage deleted from said memory table is changed such that said message program is completed within a predetermined time period.

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6. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said message program comprises a plurality of message stages having a same message parameter, and when a change in message parameter performed in one of the message stages having the same message parameter is stored in said memory, the message stages
20 having the same message parameter are modified in one lump according to the change in message parameter stored in said memory at the next execution of said message program.

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7. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the message parameter comprises a combination of range of message action and at least one of the kind of message action, the number of message actions, message strength and message speed,
said message program comprises a plurality of message stages having a same
30 range of message action, and

when a change in massage parameter performed in one of the massage stages having the same range of massage action is stored in said memory, the massage stages having the same range of massage action are modified in one lump according to the change in massage parameter stored in said memory at the
5 next execution of said massage program.

8. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the massage parameter comprises a combination of ranges of massage action in width and height
10 directions and at least one of the kind of massage action, the number of massage actions, massage strength and massage speed, said massage program comprises a plurality of massage stages having at least one of a same range of massage action in the width direction and a same range of massage action in the height direction, and
15 when a change in massage parameter performed in one of the massage stages is stored in said memory, the massage stages having at least one of the same range of massage action in the width direction and the same range of massage action in the height direction are modified in one lump according to the change in massage parameter stored in said memory at the next execution of said
20 massage program.

9. Then method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said massage parameter comprises range of massage action provided by a plurality of blocks, each of
25 which is composed of plural combinations of range of massage action in a width direction and range of massage action in a height direction, an optimum block is determined from said blocks according to a predetermined correlation between the range of massage action and body-type information, and the body-type information of a user to be massaged; and
30 one of the plural combinations of the range of massage action in the width

direction and the range of massage action in the height direction is determined in said optimum block to meet the user's preference.

5 10. A massage machine for providing a massage according to a massage program having a plurality of massage stages with different massage parameters, said massage machine comprising:

an input unit configured to input a change in massage parameter;

a first memory for temporarily storing the change in massage parameter input
10 by said input unit in a desired massage stage during an execution of said massage program;

a second memory for storing the change in massage parameter provided from said first memory after the completion of said massage program; and

a control unit configured to modify the desired massage stage at the next
15 execution of said massage program according to the change in massage parameter stored in said second memory.

11. The massage machine as set forth in claim 10, wherein the massage
20 machine is a chair-type massage machine having a backrest portion, in which a massage head for providing a massage action is incorporated.

12. A controller for a massage machine for providing a massage according to a
25 massage program having a plurality of massage stages with different massage parameters, said massage machine comprising:

a first memory for temporarily storing a change in massage parameter performed in a desired massage stage during an execution of said massage program;

30 a second memory for storing the change in massage parameter provided from

said first memory after the completion of said message program; and
a control unit configured to modify the desired message stage according to the
change in message parameter stored in said second memory at the next
execution of said message program,

- 5 wherein the controller is detachable to the message machine, and
comprises an input unit configured to input the change in message parameter
and a screen for displaying the message parameter.